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Bulbs Bulbs Bulbs Just Arrived From Holland Now is the time to plant. Nothing better to look at in early Spring than a good bed of Tulips.

WATTS FLORIST 179 WELLINGTON ST KINGSTON, ONT. PHONE 1763

JOKER OR SWINDLER?

STRANGE TRICK PLAYED ON PUBLISHING FIRM.

Editors of Encyclopaedia Published Biographies of a Number of Famous Botanists, But It Now Turns Out That the Names and Data Were Faked and That No Such Men Ever Lived.

As fine a humorous passage as H. G. Wells has been able to write in recent years is that in "Marriage," in which the heroine's pampered father plays his favorite game. It consisted in a letter being pronounced, after which the contestants immediately wrote down the names of as many famous people as they could think of whose initial the letter was, the one writing down the most names being the winner. Mr. Pope used invariably to win this game when competing with his family, but one day a stranger took a hand, and defeated Mr. Pope with humiliating ease. His practice was to lug in a lot of names which he alleged to be famous, but which nobody else had ever heard of, but for fear of appearing ignorant they dared not challenge them. A similar sort of joke on a vaster scale has been perpetrated at the expense of Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, if we are to believe Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, librarian of the New York Botanical Garden for three years, and now a contributor to the Garden's Journal. He deals only with the botanists in the Cyclopaedia, but the mischief arises that if so many of the supposed botanists were figments of the imagination, may not many other names be equally fictitious?

The editor of Appleton's evidently considered that a European who had visited America and made any discoveries there was entitled to mention in an encyclopaedia. Therefore, we come across the following list:

- Kehr, Gustav Herman, German botanist, b. in Freysingen in 1581; d. in Magdeburg in 1639.
- Kerckhove, Lorenz, Wenceslas, Dutch naturalist, b. in Bois le Duc in 1785; d. in Amsterdam in 1839.
- Kjoeping, Olaus, Swedish explorer, b. in Dalecarlia in 1741; d. in Soroe, Denmark, in 1809.
- Koehler, Alexander Daniel, German botanist, b. in Altenkirchen, Rügen Island, 18 April, 1762; d. in Langenbranden, Wurttemberg, 6 Dec., 1828.
- Lotter, Frederic August, German botanist, b. in Kleinaupe, Moravia, in 1741; d. in Gotha in 1806.
- Mortier, Edouard Louis, French naturalist, b. in Mulhouse in 1801; d. in Rio Janeiro in 1852.
- Naascher, Friedrich Wilhelm, German naturalist, b. in Newent, England, in 1702; d. in Paderborn, Westphalia, in 1764.
- Ramese, Stanislas Henri de la, French naturalist, b. in Perigueux in 1747; d. in Fontainebleau in 1803.
- Thibaudin, Gaston Louis, French explorer, b. in Dunkirk in 1727; d. in Lima, Peru, in 1796.
- Vivier, Jacques du, b. in Lorent, France, in 1720; d. there in 1793.
- Wallerton, Charles Louis, Auguste, French naturalist, b. in Sainte-Menehould in 1721; d. in Nancy in 1788.

If we trust Dr. Barnhart, every one of these men is bogus. They never made any contribution to American or any other science; they never lived. Dr. Barnhart says that the editors of the encyclopaedia were imposed upon by some one who was either a practical joker or a plain swindler, and contributed the biographies as so much wood. He finds internal evidence to indicate that the biographies were all the work of one author. It is to be noted that of all the eleven, none died in the United States where a tombstone might be supposed to confirm or deny a story about him. Two are supposed to have died in South America, and certainly the editors of Appleton's would not have thought of despatching an expedition to search the churchyards there. All these great botanists were safely interred by the author in small, remote towns where it might be expected that the encyclopaedia would never enter, and to which no subsequent botanist would make a pious pilgrimage. On this account Dr. Barnhart says that thirty years have elapsed since the fraud was perpetrated, and is only now exposed. Probably, too, the house of Appleton now will find it difficult to look up the records and discover who was the contributor whose acquaintance with other European botanists of some hundreds of years ago was so intimate.

Dr. Barnhart mentions not fewer than 59 titles of 129 volumes in all mentioned as the work of these bogus botanists that never were written, and it was a search for some of them that first gave him the clue to the fraud. He notes that the earliest work on sex in plants was not published until 1694, or sixty-three years after the monumental tome of a fake botanist. In another case the bogus biography speaks of the bread fruit tree in South America in 1753, whereas this cereal was not introduced into tropical America until 1793. It is difficult to summon up much indignation against the scoundrel who forged these biographies. He ought to be classed with George Buchanan and Theodore Hook, as a practical joker. But it is not usual for a practical joker to wait thirty years to get his laugh. Maybe he was one of those true humorists who do not need anyone to laugh with them. Maybe he needed the money.

Trams in China.

The municipality of Canton is offering a franchise for the construction of a tramway ten miles long around the city, upon the site of the old city walls, which are being demolished.

Miss Mary B. Jenkins of Bath, Me., is getting ready to gather the first crop of cotton ever grown in Maine. Miss Jenkins planted the cotton as an experiment to find out whether cotton could be grown in New England.

The establishment of an institution for medical research in Belgium is one of the ambitions of Queen Elizabeth.

QUEER COINS.

Money That Was Circulated as Result of the War.

The great war brought into circulation some very odd kinds of money. There was lack of copper and nickel throughout Europe, owing to the demand for those metals for munitions, etc.; and, to aggravate the situation people everywhere took to hoarding coins.

Germany issued hundreds of millions of five-pfennig and ten-pfennig iron coins, the later output of these pieces being coated with zinc to prevent rust. Iron coins were likewise minted by the Governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

The Germans issued one-pfennig pieces of aluminum, and in Algeria also aluminum coins of five centimes and ten centimes made their appearance in circulation.

Germany issued muslin notes, and the local governments in that country and in Austria printed paper money of the smallest value ever known, representing one-fifth of a cent.

Even more curious was the paste-board money issued in some of the enemy-occupied cities in France. It was in denominations up to five francs, and was of different colors and shapes—square, round, octagonal, oval and diamond shaped. This "card money" was guaranteed by the local municipality, and was good only for use in transactions with merchants of the town where it was issued.

Meanwhile the clever Japanese bought up in China nearly all of the visible supply of "cash"—the copper pieces with square holes for stringing them together. At the enhanced price of copper they were worth considerably more as bullion than as money.

In African Waters.

The Congo might be called the Amazon of the Dark Continent. They are the two greatest rivers in the world if measured by the volume of water they discharge into the ocean.

In one very important respect, however, they are strikingly different. For whereas the Amazon is comfortably navigable for more than 2,300 miles from its mouth, the Congo is beset by long stretches of impassable rapids.

The vast basin of the Amazon is low-lying, flat territory, through which the mighty river and its tributaries (some of the latter huge streams flow sluggishly. But the Congo, to reach the sea, breaks through a mountainous plateau.

Thus a vessel ascending the Congo proceeds only ninety miles before reaching, at Matadi, the first great rapids. Its passengers or freight, to get around the latter, must be transferred to a train for a "portage" of 250 miles; and further on there are two other long stretches that have to be covered in the same way.

By steamer and rail one can travel all the way from the Congo's mouth to Bukama, 2,200 miles up. In its upper reaches the river, though still wide, becomes very shallow, so that the steamboats plying those waters are small craft, such as one sometimes sees in Florida, with stern wheels and drawing no more than three feet.

From Bukama the journey may be continued by rail to Lake Tanganyika (a body of fresh water 400 miles long) down the lake 200 miles by steamer and by rail across what used to be German East Africa to a seaport, Dar-es-Salaam, on the Indian Ocean, a short distance south of Zanzibar.

Thus may one cross the whole of middle Africa to-day by steam.

Where Rabbits Climb Trees.

Asked what animals can climb, the average person would answer "cats, monkeys and squirrels."

Ask him if rabbits can climb, and he will either laugh or regard you as a lunatic.

Yet rabbits do climb. Not English rabbits. They have not had need to learn to do so, for they have been able to find plenty of food on the ground. But their Australian descendants have been driven to climb trees to get green food in time of drought, and in some districts the Australian rabbit has become a regular climber.

The stoat, ferret and rat, all ground animals, are yet quite good tree climbers when the need arises. One of the weasel family, the pine marten, is as much at home in the tree tops as the squirrel itself.

A rat, though quite nimble among the branches, cannot come down as quickly as it goes up, and sometimes comes badly to grief in trying to jump from one bough to another.

A hunted fox will climb a tree with wonderful agility always supposing it can get any hold for its feet. A dog, on the other hand, will not climb; the reason is not so much that it cannot as that it seems aware that a very slight fall will snap its foreleg below the shoulder.

A Giant Sun.

Canopus, the giant of the solar system, is, according to a recent calculation, 49,000 times as bright as the sun. Its diameter is 134 times that of the sun; it is 18,000 times larger in surface, and 2,420,000 times larger in volume. The distance of it from us, according to this calculation, is 489 light years.

"Suppose," says another authority, "that instead of being at this enormous distance it were placed in the centre of the solar system, in lieu of the sun? It would then occupy .35 of the space lying within the orbit of Venus, and as seen from the earth would subtend an angle of about 79 degrees of arc. Thus, when its lower limb was on our horizon, its upper would be within 20 degrees of the zenith. Needless to say, no life could exist on earth with such a neighbor.

Castle Increase; Sheep Decrease. It is estimated that there are 126,000 more cattle in the United Kingdom now than in 1914; sheep, however, show a decline in numbers of upwards of 900,000.

In both Canada and Great Britain women are eligible to become members of the House of Commons.

Over 55 per cent of the employees in the silk mills in China are women over 22 years of age.

A World of Philosophy in this Packet

"To live well with the world"—
To forget, for a little while, the strain and rush of business—
To relax the nerves—
Such is philosophy.

A quiet corner by the fireside, a good book,—and a packet of dainty, candy-coated Chiclets.

These "Really Delightful" confections, with a tingling peppermint flavor, bring good digestion to the aid of leisure hours; relieve the tension; give an impetus to clear thought.

Sold everywhere at ten for 5c. For home use—the big Week-End box at 25c.

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"Round Robin."

A "round robin" consists of a paper containing a petition, protest, complaint, or congratulations around which the names of the signers are written in a circle so as to avoid giving prominence to any single name, and so that no name heads the list. The term has been found in Coverdale's preface to his translation of Calvin's "Tract on the Lord's Supper," dated 1546, but it is there used as a term of reproach for the ebullient or ppx. Brewer claimed the term to be a corruption of the French "rou" (round) "ruban" (ribbon). Applied to persons, the term designated "a religious or political brawling." It was used in this sense by Hackett in his "Life of Archbishop Williams" (1692): "These Wat Tylers and Round Robins being driven or persuaded out of Whitehall." The modern round robin is said to have originated with sailors who used the method in trying to secure redress of their grievances, and a record of this is to be found in "The Gentleman's Magazine" (L. 238) dated 1731.

Reclaiming Land in Holland.

Reclamation of land in Holland—a task prosecuted for centuries—is still going on. From twenty to twenty-five thousand acres are reclaimed every year. More than two hundred and fifty thousand acres of the best soil are still under water, not including the great area under the Zuyder Zee.

Worth Knowing.

Cut flowers, especially roses, will last longer if they are given a good bath up to their necks soon after they are cut.

The residence of Mrs. Andrew Carnegie in New York city has been assessed at over \$2,000,000.

Practically every industry in Switzerland employs women workers.

Women are eligible for all elective offices in Iceland.

Six hundred women were executed for witchcraft in France during the year of 1609.

Philadelphia women propose organizing a political club, the first of its kind in the Quaker city.

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